

Serial No. 08/913,555

Examiner's consideration, Applicants provide herewith a copy of Suda et al. along with a translation of its abstract and a translation of Figures 2, 3 and 5, and a new PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the reference in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

In the Office Action of May 28, 1998, the claims were rejected as being anticipated by Goodwin (WO 95/18819) published July 13, 1995 or as obvious over Goodwin in view of other cited references. Applicants further traverse the rejections based on the Goodwin reference for the following reasons.

Applicants claim the benefit of its priority application, Japanese Patent Application No. 87420/1995 filed March 20, 1995, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 119. Applicants filed the original application in Japan on March 20, 1995 and subsequently filed a PCT application on March 21, 1996. March 20, 1996 is a national holiday in Japan. Accordingly, the PCT application was filed within the one year period pursuant to Rule 80 of the PCT.

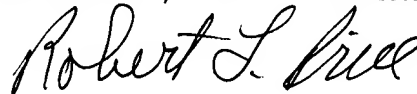
Applicants hereby perfect its right to priority of Japanese Application No. 87420/1995 filed on March 20, 1995 by providing a certified English language translated copy of the application along with a statement by the translator that the translation is true and correct. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the pending claims predicated on the Goodwin reference published July 13, 1995 should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above comments, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the application are respectfully requested. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert L. Price".

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